

## Artwork and Artistry: Award Winning Pieces

By: Jordy Featherstone  
Contributing Writer

When asked how it was possible to dwindle down over two hundred choices of artwork to the accepted sixty-three pieces showcased in the 2007 Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, this year's judge, Susan Harbage Page, paused for a split second. She then stated, "I was looking for the voices of the artists." She clarified her statement by adding this stipulation: "I wanted all the works to be about something." As an observer of the past Annual Student Exhibitions, I think her objective was reached. The Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition of 2007 is one of the strongest shows that Meredith College has had in years. The accepted works this year cover a wide range of media including photography, paint, pencil, textiles, ceramics and sculptures; plus, every piece accepted has its own personal voice.

Susan Harbage Page, a North Carolinian prized photographer and professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, was honored that Meredith College chose her to judge the students' work this year. Page said her job was extremely hard, due to such a wide range of media and creativity. Page roamed up and down the aisles of the Gaddy-Hamrick art building for hours before being able to place her dot of approval on sixty-three pieces, and reward ten honorable mentions and one Best in Show. Page confessed that she was so impressed by the works of the Meredith students that she could not make up her mind. In the end,

students ranging from freshmen to non-traditional students were happily framing and hanging their work in the Rotunda Art Gallery in preparation for last Sunday's reception.

As the students and families arrived in the Rotunda for the reception, there was excited chatter among the crowds. Ann Roth, the gallery director, and Sharon Hill, the director of the Gallery's Outreach Program, weaved in and out of the crowds congratulating and greeting the accepted students. When Linda Fitzsimmons, the Head of the Art Department, and Ann Roth were ready to hand out the rewards for

the afternoon, the buzzing around the room slowly was swallowed by a hopeful silence. Maureen Price, a junior majoring in graphic design and theatre, was the first to win an honorable mention for her photography piece titled *Insomnia*. Price said that "Receiving an honorable mention was such a fantastic surprise for [her] at the end of a very hectic year. [She] was definitely not expecting it, which, of course, made it all the better." Maureen reveals that *Insomnia* is a piece that marked a time in her past that still remains very potent today. Carra Sykes, a freshman majoring in graphic design, is another winner of an honorable

mention. Sykes states that she was pretty stoked to hear her name called and that she was not expecting a win because of all the other lovely works of art in the student show this year. The other winners for honorable mentions were Brandi Bowen, for her graphic art piece *What's Wrong with Cinderella*; Kathryn Thomas's ink piece, titled *Johnny Cash*; Angela Levesque's ink-jet photography print, *Reflections*; Rebecca Reed's digitally printed Kimono scarf number No. 2; Brooke Bullock's clay piece, *Just an Accident*, Susy Holloway's hanging reed and paper sculpture, titled *Winged Mobile*; and Suzette Sheet's series

of photography, titled *Flirtation*. The Best in Show was awarded to the shocked senior Katie Bryant for her oil pastel piece, titled *Self Portrait*.

After the announcements of the Best in Show and honorable mentions, a few more students were surprised by other types of prestigious rewards. The 360° Ceramics Reward, a new reward to the art department, was rewarded to Brooke Bullock's *Copy Cats* and C.J. Barefoot's *I'm a Traditional Teapot*. Carol Hayes, a professor of ceramics at Meredith College, states that the ceramics works were so strong this year that they had to go with two students instead of one. C.J. Barefoot also won the Louise Ruth Award for her piece *Not a Typical Teapot*. The Louise Ruth Award is usually awarded to a student's work that exhibits a sense of humor. The Peggy Clover Reward was given to Rebecca Reed for her work *Silk Kimono Scarf No. 2* and Alicia Hylton-Daniel for her work *The Voices of the Great*. Brooke Bullock was also rewarded the Cleta Johnson Reward for her outstanding ceramics series: *Copy Cats*. To top the reception off, Erica Kendrick was prized the Art Department Purchase Reward for her wood sculpture piece just recently titled *Catalyst*.

To find out more about the students and their artwork please visit the Rotunda Gallery located in Johnson during Student Achievement Day from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. All the artists will be present to speak about their exceptional achievements in art.



Above: Katie Bryant awarded Best in Show for piece titled *Self Portrait*  
Below: C. J. Barefoot beside pieces *A Statement About AIDS & Not a Typical Teapot*

